REMARKS

Upon entry of this Amendment, claims 2-7 are all the claims pending in the application. Claim 1 has been canceled. Claims 1-7 presently stand rejected. In particular, claims 1-4, 6 and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Mori et al. (USP 6,208,802) and claim 5 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mori et al. (USP 6,208,802). For the reasons set forth below, Applicant respectfully traverses the rejections and requests favorable disposition of the application.

Argument

Applicant has amended claims 2-4 to be in independent form and to eliminate the "means plus function" language so that the claims are not interpreted under 35 U.S.C. § 112, sixth paragraph. Further, Applicant submits that Mori et al. does teach or suggest all of the features in any of independent claims 2-4.

In regard to claim 2, the Examiner asserts that Mori et al. discloses all of the features of claim 2. Applicant respectfully disagrees. Specifically, as disclosed, for example, at page 12, lines 13-18 of the instant specification, in accordance with one embodiment of the invention a "stop command" is prerecorded within the control data on the information medium, e.g., a DVD. Accordingly, as the DVD is being played, when the "stop command" is processed the reproducing apparatus is controlled to stop the the moving picture play and display a still image instead.

In accordance with the embodiment described on page 12, claim 2 recites;

> An information reproducing apparatus which plays back an information medium in which at least image information and ***control information*** to

> control a play back form of the image information ***are recorded***, comprising:
> a controller that plays back and ***controls the image information in a display form according to the control information***, and that reports the play back control state, when the control information is detected at the time of play back of the information medium, wherein ***the controller stops the play back of the image information*** and reports the play back control state, ***when the detected control information is information to stop the playback***. (emphasis added)

Mori et al. does not teach or even suggest the above feature of claim 2. Alternatively, Mori et al. discloses a reproduction apparatus wherein the reproduction mode is switched from a video playback mode to an audio-only playback mode based on the condition of certain external control signals. For example, at column 21, lines 6-14, i.e., the passage cited by the Examiner as disclosing the subject matter of claim 2, Mori et al. discloses;

> if the liquid crystal display panel is in the open state, the reproduction mode may be switched to a video-oriented reproduction mode; conversely, if the liquid crystal display panel is in the closed state, the reproduction mode may be switched to an audio-oriented reproduction mode. Such ***control can be achieved by inputting a control signal indicating the open or closed state of the liquid crystal display panel*** to the reproduction mode determination section 93d so as to allow the reproduction mode determination section 93d to operate in response to that control signal. (emphasis added)

According to other embodiments disclosed in Mori et al., the external control signals that determine whether the playback mode is switched come from detection of a connection of a video output terminal (Col. 21, lines 16-18), presence or absence of a video signal (Col. 21, lines 28-30), and even the state of motion of an automobile (Col. 21, lines 41-43). However, Mori et al. does not anywhere disclose stopping the playback of image information when detected control information, that is recorded on the recording medium, is information to stop the playback. For at least this reason, claim 2 is patentable over the prior art of record.

Additionally, however, claim 2 further requires that in addition to the image playback being stopped, the playback control state is reported. For example, as shown in FIG. 5(b) the message "DVD/ON STILL IMAGE" is displayed to the user. Mori et al. does not disclose this feature either and for this additional reason, claim 2 is patentable over the prior art of record.

Claim 3 recites, *inter alia*, "wherein the controller is provided with a memory for previously storing report data to report the playback control state, and reports according to the report data corresponding to the control information." As discussed above in regard to claim 2, Mori et al. does not teach or suggest the reporting feature claimed. Accordingly, regardless of what is actually "retained in a reproduction mode retention section 93c within the system control section 93" (Col. 20, lines 47-49), it is not report data that corresponds to prerecorded control information, as required by claim 3. For at least this reason, claim 3 is patentable over the prior art of record.

Claim 4 recites, *inter alia*, "wherein the control information has at least any one piece of information of play back stop, still image play back, and automatic play back start of the image information." Mori et al. does not teach or suggest this feature. Specifically, the passage cited by the Examiner, i.e, Col. 20, lines 47-49, states, "a code representing a video-oriented reproduction mode is retained in a reproduction mode retention section 93c within the system control section 93." From reading the isolated passage in context, it is recognized that this particular passage merely discloses that once a remote control device (e.g., an infrared device) is manipulated to send a video mode ("V-MODE") signal this condition is stored in the reproduction mode retention section 93c. A similar mode is obtained and stored when an audio

mode ("A-MODE") is selected from the remote control device. (See, for example, Col. 20, lines 41-54).

Accordingly, at least because the information stored according to Mori et al. is not control information recorded on the information medium, Mori et al. does not and can not disclose the features of claim 4. For at least this reason, claim 4 is patentable over the prior art of record.

Additionally, however, even if the stored information in Mori et al. were recorded on the information medium, the requirements of claim 4 still would not be met by Mori et al. because the information stored in Mori et al. is not any one of play back stop, still image play back, and automatic play back start of the image information, as explicitly required by the claims. For this additional reason, claim 4 is patentable over the prior art of record.

Claims 5, 6 and 7, to the extent they depend from claims 2, 3 or 4, are patentable at least by virtue of their dependency.

For the reasons discussed above, none of claims 2-7 are either anticipated by or otherwise rendered obvious by the disclosure of Mori et al. Accordingly the rejection of claims 2-7 should be withdrawn.

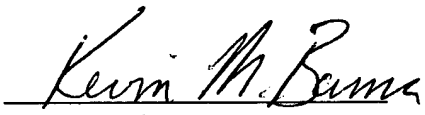
Conclusion

In view of the above amendments and remarks, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone

interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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